

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the above-identified application. In the Office Action of October 24, 2003, the Examiner made the following dispositions:

- 1.) Acknowledged Applicants' election of Group II, Claims 5-8.
- 2.) Rejected Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter.
- 3.) Rejected Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Hsich et al* U.S. Patent No. 6,315,471.
- 4.) Objected to Claims 6 and 8.

Applicants address the Examiner's dispositions below. Though we do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejections, claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice to expedite allowance. We preserve Applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claim in subsequent applications. New claim 9 has been added and is supported by the original application as filed. No new matter has been added.

1.) Applicants' Election:

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' election without traverse of claims 5-8 in Paper No. 7.

2.) Rejection of Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph:

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 7 has been amended to depend off of newly amended claim 6, which has proper antecedent basis for claim 7, and thus the rejection is moot.

3.) Rejection of Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being Anticipated by *Hsich*.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Hsich*. Claim 5 has been canceled and thus the rejection is moot.

4.) Objection to Claims 6 and 8:

Claims 6 and 8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 6 and 8 have been amended as per the Examiner's request to overcome the rejection.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit the objection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn in regards to claims 6 and 8.

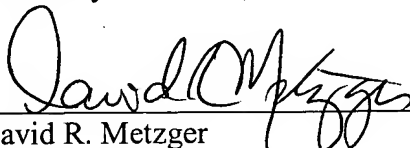
Claim 7 has been amended to depend off of claim 6, and new claim 9 depends off of claim 8. Because claims 7 and 9 include all the limitations of claims 6 and 8 respectively, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 7 and 9 because the independent claims that they depend off of are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
David R. Metzger
Registration No. 32,919
SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P.O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080
(312) 876-8000